Transportation/Facilities Workgroup
EMSSTAR Workgroup – Meeting Notes

August 9th, 2005, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Maine Emergency Medical Services Office
500 Civic Center Drive
Augusta, Maine

Present:
Joanne LeBrun, Tri-County EMS
Jay Bradshaw, Maine EMS (sitting in for Drexell White, EMT-P, Maine EMS)
Rodger Audette, Augusta Fire
Jeri Kahl, Maine Health and Information Center
Jim McKenney, EMT-P, Crown Ambulance
Paul Knowlton, EMT-P, Meridian Mobile Health
Chief Roy Woods, Caribou Fire/EMS (sitting in for Chief Jim Farrell, Augusta Fire Dept.)

Not Present:
Chief Jim Farrell, Augusta Fire Dept.
Joseph Moore, Mid Coast EMS
Richard Doughty, EMT-P, Meridian Mobile Health
Drexell White, EMT-P, Maine EMS
Gary Utgard, EMT-P, Sanford Fire Dept
Bob Johnson
Rick Cheverie, Bangor Fire Dept
Paul Liebow, Region 4 EMS
Perry Jackson, EMT-P, Crown Ambulance

1. Review/Approval of Notes from 7/12 meeting

   a. Minutes approved by group

2. Presentation by Jeri Kahl: Data and Data Collections

   a. **Overview of "response times?" What really goes into calculating response times?**

      i. Volunteers submit their times. A simple calculation is performed between those various times and then averaged for reporting purposes.
      ii. If there are two times received for a response time, the earlier of the times is recorded in the system.
      iii. Reports are used to try and show the service's response; when did they receive the call and when did they reach the patient's side.

iv. NEMSIS database actually has an area for the previously "unknown" items (i.e. When did you actually get to the patients side vs. just to the location.)

v. Maine EMS uses the response time report to see call received and at scene averages per service. The data is provided to services and regions so they can gauge how well they may be doing. The 20 minute rule is a guideline for the state EMS to identify where there may be problems which need to be addressed.

vi. 20 minute rule seen as a guideline. If response times reach 20 minutes, steps needed to be taken to investigate if the service. Do they need added help in an area (more vehicles, staffing etc)

vii. This reporting system has been in place for a long time without much change.

viii. Can these reports used to trend how services are operating in the different communities?

ix. Response time reports are used many times when small towns are deciding which service to contract with. Reports are looked at to see how long it takes each different service to reach their area and what the response times are to their community.

x. Annually, could we use service response time reports to create actual goals and standards for each service for the next year. Hold each service accountable for the next year's response times dependant on the prior years. This could be linked to licensure.

xi. Per Jay, Information is currently available, workgroup is charged with showing others how to look at that data. Workgroup is to find out what is important and then recommend that to the board.

xii. Within the next year, Maine EMS will be going through a major data shift from a paper system to completely digital.

xiii. There are "value added" features that capture special items within each run report. The data is available; people just need to know how and what to look for.

xiv. State EMS is charged with assembling, not the workgroup, and identifying data elements to be used when developing the new run report data collection.

xv. Annual trending could easily be accomplished by reviewing the available data. Data is available; however, there are no regulations for analyzing this data.

b. 4.4.b - Recommendation

i. Workgroup agrees that the 20 minute response times should be eliminated. The average response requirements specific to relevant community characteristics should be established.

c. 4.4.a - Recommendation

      i. The strategy and program to analyze and distribute the response times is currently in place, however, it needs to be updated in conjunction with the new electronic run time reporting program.

    d. 4.4.d – Recommendation

      i. Workgroup agreed to accept the recommendation language: "Licensed EMS providers are authorized to request air medical transport. If there is any question regarding the appropriate response regarding air transport, contact online medical control."
      ii. Workgroup would also like to recommend that the Ground Safety Course be required and brought to the Educational Committee.
      iii. Workgroup is recommending this recommendation will only be presented to the EMS board.

    e. 4.5.d – Clarification

      i. Workgroup requested Jay clarify this item.
      ii. Jay suggested the new QI module may offer a solution to this issue and clarify the situation.

3. Plan Next Meeting

      i. Review Recommendations made during this meeting and approve.
      ii. Next meeting date: Sept. 13th, 1:30 – 3:30pm.